

REMARKS

Claims 1-8 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Davidson, U.S. Patent No. 4,873,717 in view of Foster, U.S. Patent No. 4,757,526. This rejection is traversed.

The Examiner asserts that Davidson teaches the claimed features but does not teach or suggest a Centrex group. The Examiner relies on Foster as teaching this feature and asserts that it would have been obvious to have modified Davidson in view of Foster to provide “and extends [sic] a number of service features to the business group.” Applicants respectfully submit that one of ordinary skill in the art would not have been motivated to modify Davidson in view of Foster to create the claimed invention.

Foster relates to Centrex services provided to subscribers having a main location connected to one local exchange and a remote or satellite location connected to another local exchange (col. 1, lines 11-14). Incoming calls from the outside come in via the main location exchange (col. 1, lines 14-16). Davidson, on the other hand, relates to a call coverage arrangement in which coverage personnel are informed of the switch-hook status of covered terminals by way of a single two-part indicator on the coverage terminal (abstract). Applicants submit that there would have been no reason for one to modify Davidson to provide a Centrex group. Doing so would not add anything to the system disclosed in Davidson.

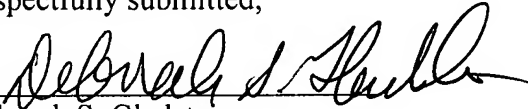
Further, the Examiner has not pointed to any specific evidence of record which supports the stated motivation to combine these references. Merely stating that it would provide and extend a number of services to the business group does not address any of the problems sought to be addressed in Davidson. Davidson does not care about providing services to the business group, Davidson is only concerned with the switch-hook status of covered terminals. Further, Davidson is not concerned with the way in which calls are routed to remote locations (as in Foster), but rather whether it is appropriate to route calls at all, thus the switch-hook status information. Thus, applicants submit that one of ordinary skill in the art would not have been motivated to modify Davidson in view of Foster to create the claimed invention. Applicants request that this rejection be withdrawn.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue. If it is determined that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number given below.

In the event the U.S. Patent and Trademark office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to Deposit Account No. 03-1952 referencing docket no. **449122026200**.

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Respectfully submitted,

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